

# San Diego Regional MS4 Permit: Adoption Process and Outcome

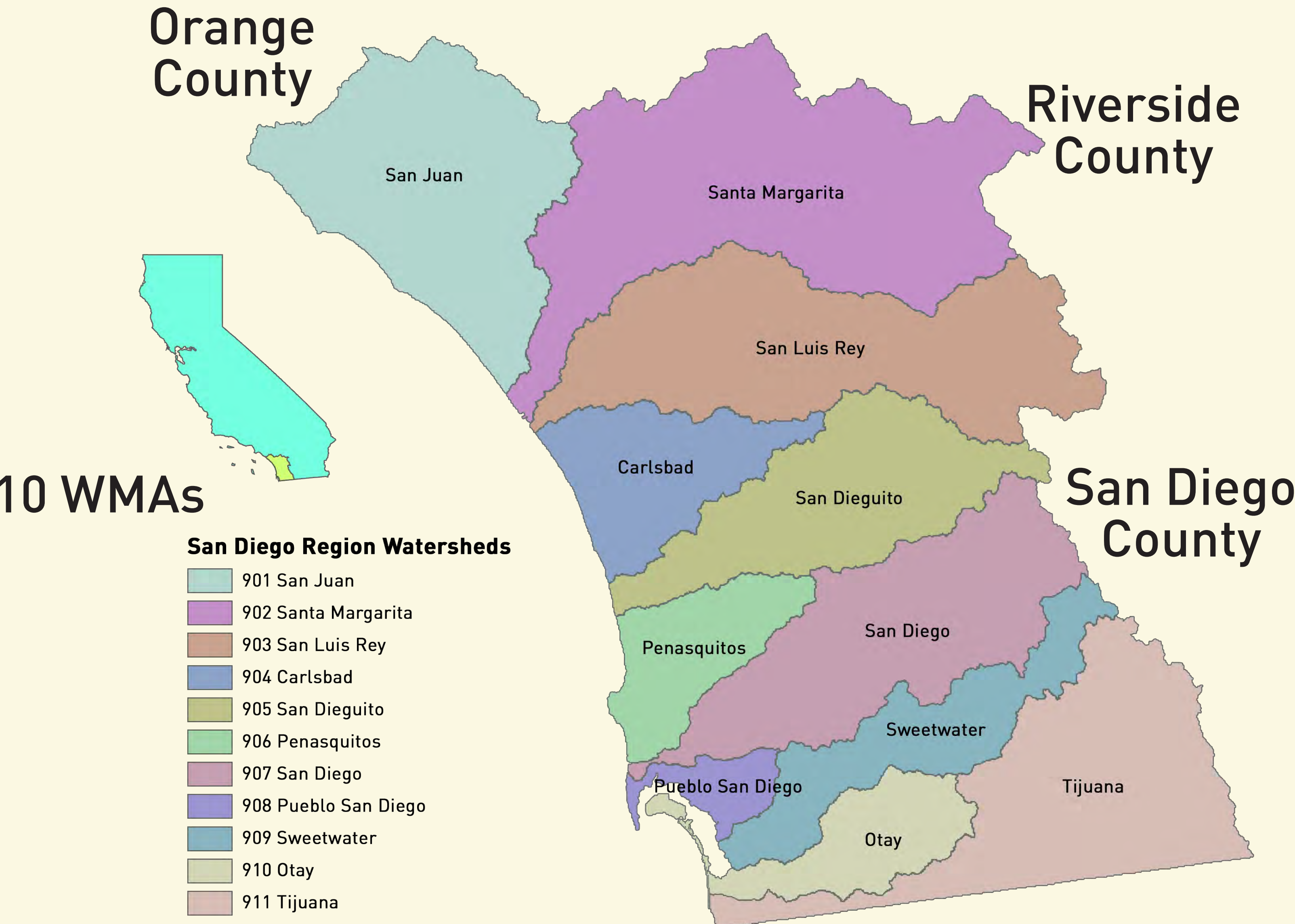
April 29 - May 1, 2014

by Matt Rich (matt.rich@amec.com) and Rachel Davenport (rachel.davenport@amec.com)

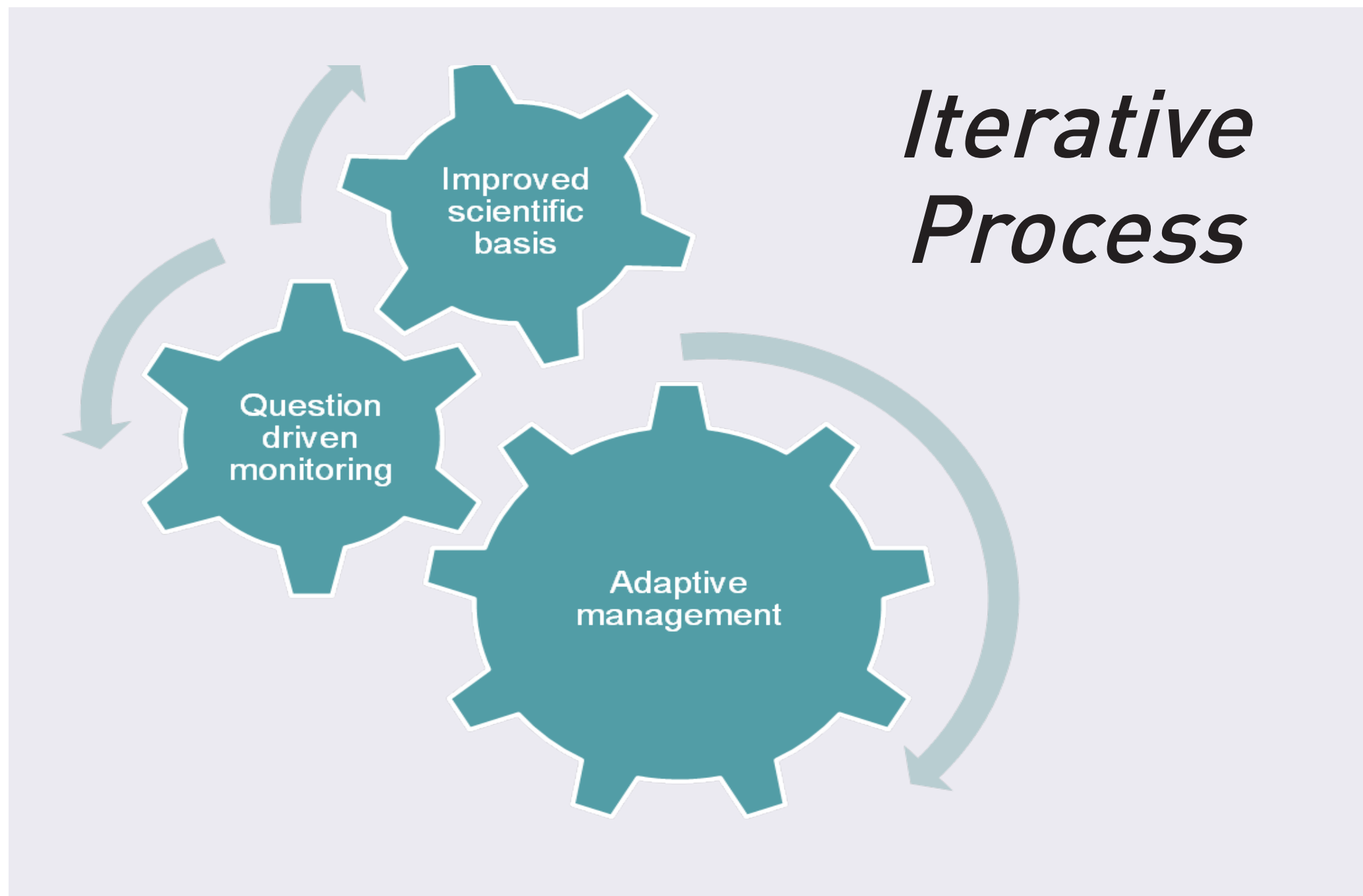


## INTRODUCTION

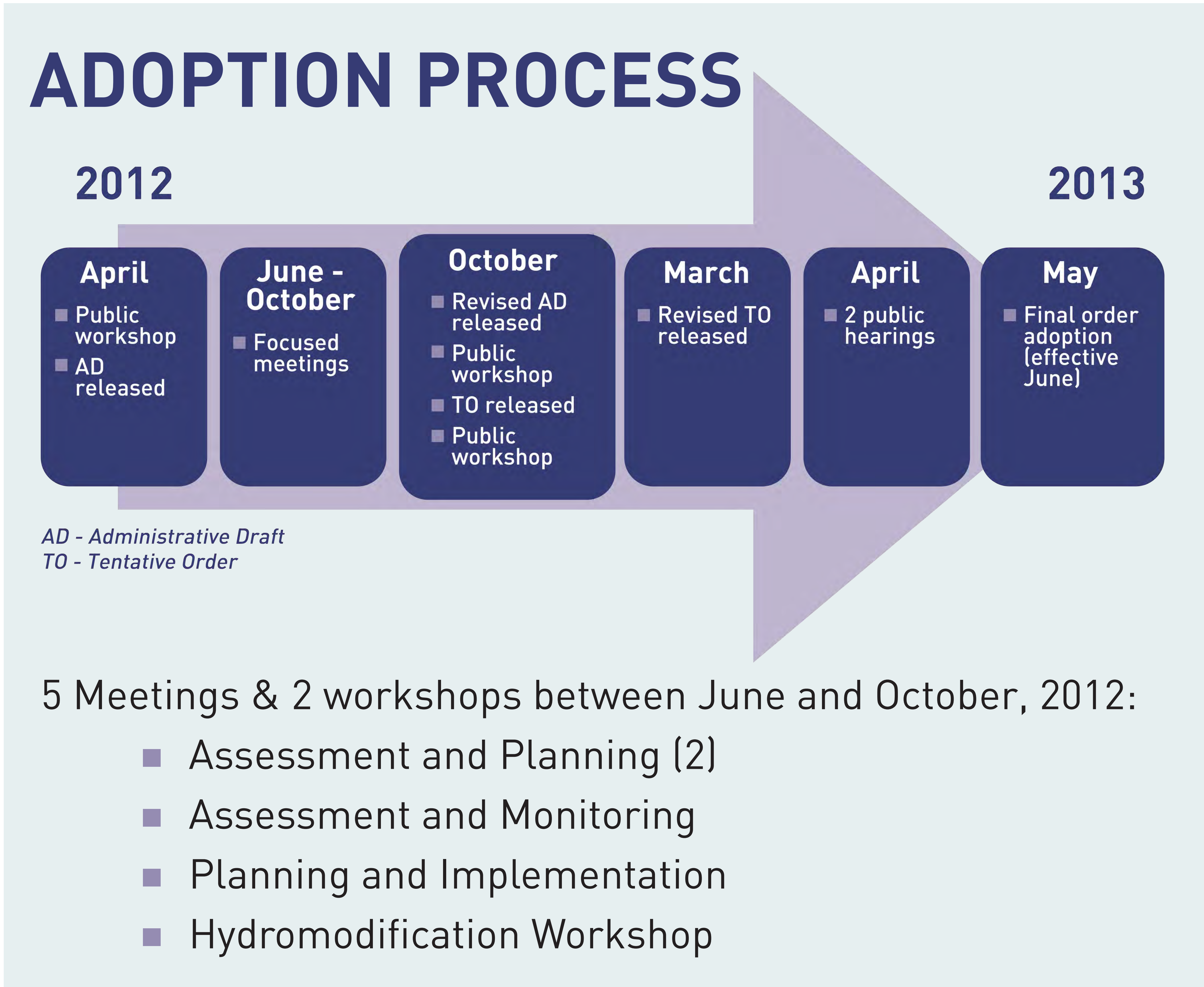
- One Regional Board, three counties, 39 Copermittees, 10 watershed management areas (WMAs)
- All of San Diego County and portions of Riverside and Orange counties
- One Regional Permit
- Administrative Draft released one full year before Final Order adoption hearing
- Tentative Order released 6 months prior to adoption hearing
- Multiple workshops and meetings with Regional Board staff



- **New approach towards Permitting**
- **Regional Board effort to promote collaboration was very well received**
- **Stakeholder Driven Process:**
  - Workshops
  - Focused Meetings
  - Informal meetings between Board Staff and other stakeholders



“*W*hiskey is for drinking;  
*Water* is for fighting over”  
-Unknown (widely attributed to Mark Twain)



## CHANGES

Monitoring	Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)	Jurisdictional Runoff Management Plan (JURMP)	Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
Jurisdictional and Watershed-based	Consultation Panel	IDDE includes over-irrigation	Interim compliance dates adjust in final Permit
Question driven	Public input	Increase area focus	Compliance determination options
Reduction of many prescriptive requirements	Watershed-based priorities (e.g., sources, conditions, strategies, and schedules	Increased flexibility for Enforcement Response	If Basin Plan, permit will be reopened to update TMDL
Flexibility to adapt program	Goal: To improve (not just manage) water quality	Inclusion of Public Education and Outreach in WQIP	Optional load-based compliance requirements included in final Permit

## Hydromodification

Tentative Draft (*not Final Order*)

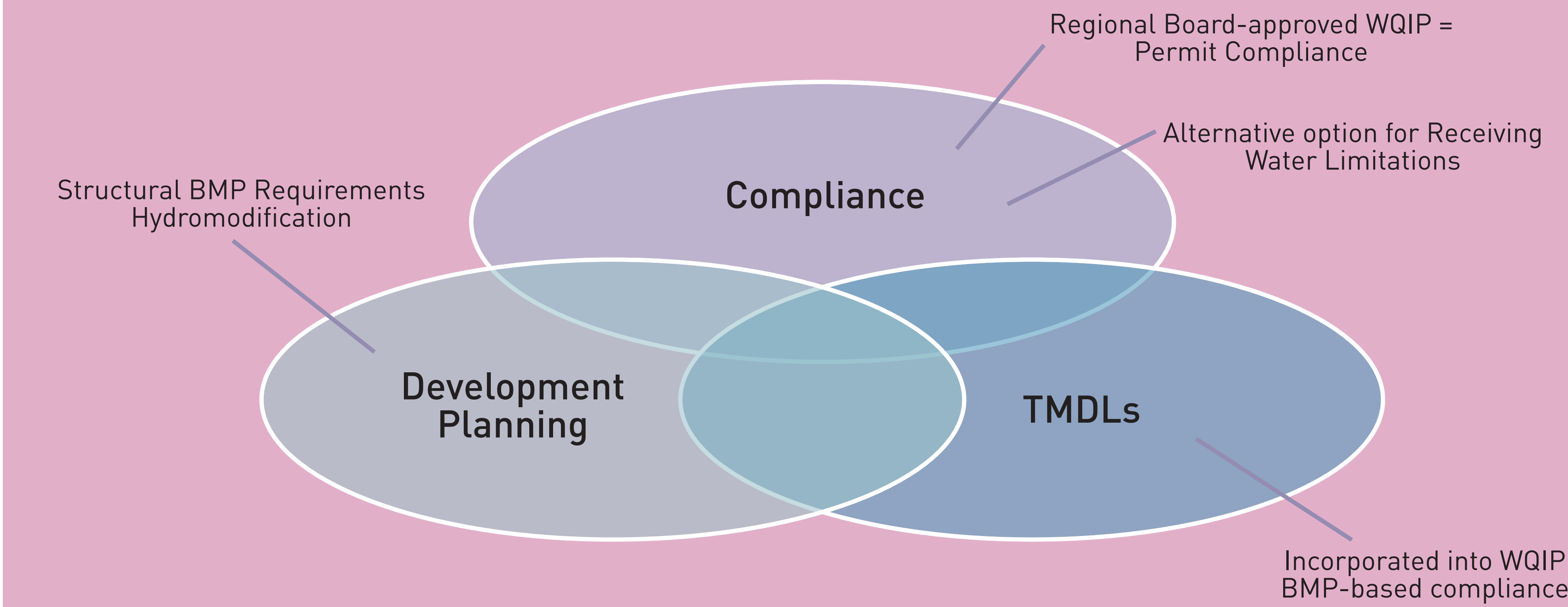
Permit or Plan	Pre-Project or Naturally Occurring	Exemptions					
		Storm Drain to Ocean	Engineered Channel to Ocean	Tidal Zone	Major River or Aggrading Reach	Reservoir	Urban Infill
San Diego HMP	Pre-Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Draft San Diego Permit	Naturally Occurring	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Riverside Santa Ana WQMP	Pre-Project	Yes	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	No
Los Angeles County	Pre-Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ventura County	Pre-Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*
San Francisco Bay Area	Pre-Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Draft Sacramento HMP	Pre-Project	Yes	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*LID exception for < 1 acre

Source: San Diego Copermittee Response to Board Member Questions. Presentation and handout. December 12, 2012.

## CHALLENGES

Three areas stakeholders did not find common ground on: Compliance; Development Planning; and TMDLs



## CONCLUSION

Drastic improvements to Administrative Draft and Final Order

- Collaborative process provides new opportunities for stakeholders, Regional Board, and the public
- WQIP provides a holistic approach to watershed management with public input opportunities
- Monitoring dramatically improved for data collection helps to inform management actions and WQIP
- Existing Development inspections: areas versus individual facilities and separation of RMAs
- Development Requirements more consistent with HMP
- BMP-Based TMDL Compliance